



**Montana Fish,
Wildlife & Parks**

54078 US Hwy 2 West
Glasgow, MT 59230

October 17, 2012

Governor's Office –Sheena Wilson
Montana State Library, Helena
Montana Department of Environmental Quality
Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks Director's Office
Fish and Wildlife Division
Parks Division
Lands Section
Communication & Education Bureau
Commission Secretary
Legal Unit
Environmental Quality Council
MT Environ. Information Center
State Historic Preservation Office
Valley County Commissioners
Valley County Planner
Montana Audubon Council
MFWP Commissioner, A. T. Stafne
Representative Tony Belcourt
Senator Jonathan Windy Boy

Carroll Family Limited Partnership
Albus Farms
William and Louise Kuki
Melvin and Katherine Loberg
Richard Molvig
Sever Enkerud
Drummond Family Enterprises
Terry Montfort
James and Linnell Dedobbeleer
Bruce Riffin
Lynn and Shirley Blatter
Kenneth Sandra Pape
Charles Cotton
Donald George Nelson
Leonard and Sandra Swenson
Floyd and Donald Nelson
Page-Whitham Land and Cattle
Donatus and Ingrid Donniaquo

Ladies and Gentlemen:

Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks (MFWP) proposes to purchase a conservation easement on approximately 2,825 acres of private land from the Potter Brothers Farms. The property is located approximately 2 miles southwest of Vandalia in Buffalo Coulee, and also includes property located 4 miles northwest of Glasgow, and 2 miles east of Tampico on the Milk River.

The proposed easement will preserve the integrity of the native habitats and traditional agricultural use of this property, and will maintain public access to this land. The primary habitats that will be conserved and enhanced on this property include riparian corridors, sagebrush and shrub grasslands, and plains grasslands. A rest rotation grazing system will be implemented to maintain and improve wildlife habitat on the property.

Critical winter range for migrating antelope, and habitat that serves as migratory linkage to migrating sage grouse, will be perpetuated by maintaining and improving existing habitat. In addition, wildlife use, including sharp-tailed grouse, mule deer, white-tailed deer, ring-necked pheasants, Merriam's turkeys, mourning doves, several species of ducks, and a wide variety of native species of migratory birds, songbirds, small mammals, and bats, will be perpetuated.

The easement terms are generalized in the Environmental Assessment (EA) and can be accessed at www.fwp.mt.gov. A Management and Grazing Plan, and SocioEconomic Report are also included in this report for your review. Hardcopies are available if requested by calling (406) 228-3700. The comment period will be open from October 17, 2012 to November 9, 2012. A public meeting will be held in Glasgow at the Valley County Courthouse on November 7, 2012 at 7:00 PM. Please submit any comments that you have by 5:00 P.M., November 9, 2012 to the address listed above, Attn: Buffalo Coulee Conservation Easement. You can also email comments to katsmith@mt.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Patrick Gunderson", followed by a horizontal line.

Patrick Gunderson
Region Six